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Action ARA

Info RMR SS G SP C L P ND UOP SCA IRC OCB USIA CIA OSD ARMY NAVY AIR

1957 OCT 24 AM Control: 14874
Rec'd: October 24, 1957 1:37 a.m.

FROM: Guatemala City

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 152, October 23, 6 p.m.

DECLASSIFICATION DATE 6/4/75
PER Fuller OFFICE ARA
FADRC FOI CASE NO. 5-R-201

NIACT

President of Congress informed Embassy Congress will meet within next hour declare elections null on grounds they were fraudulent and call for new elections. He explained Congress would take initiative without waiting for formal request from Executive Branch since question of annulling elections was exclusively prerogative of Congress. He said constitutional order would not be broken by which he presumably means junta will not be formed. However, other reports reaching Embassy indicate there are still strong pressures for formation military junta and top military officials are now meeting.

Carbonell said high military command felt they could control current disorders immediately without annulling elections but only at risk of killing anti-Communists along with Communists and army was unwilling take this risk.

Crowds are now demonstrating front of palace and Congress demanding Ydigoras be declared President, state of siege be lifted, MDN be dissolved and Oliva brothers dismissed.

Army announcement intention annul elections radically changed mood of crowd which is now still determined but not angered. Police are not opposing movement of crowd.

SPARKS

VH:OES/5

Note: Mr. King (ARA) informed 2:20 A.M. 10/24/57 F.M.H.

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